



# DANGER FORWARD

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February 8, 2010 | Issue 2

## Art of War: *Detainee murals at internment facility paint brighter future*

By Spc. Samuel Soza  
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

**CAMP BUCCA** – Since Sept. 16, 2009, Iraqi civilian and U.S. military deconstruction teams have transformed the landscape surrounding the rusting, chain-link walls of the Theater Internment Facility at Camp Bucca to piles of rubble.

That day, the last prisoners of the TIF boarded the detainee air transport north-bound for Camp Cropper, near Baghdad. The Camp Bucca detention center, located in United States Division-South near the city of Umm Qasr, was officially shut down.

Today it is a 2-square-mile ghost town.

A glance at the splashes of color on many buildings within the TIF's concertina-topped fences reveals the story of how some detainees improved their lives.

The color comes from artwork created by detainees on the plywood outer walls, resulting in hundreds of murals over a five-year period.

"The detainees painted all of the murals in the compounds and a significant majority of the murals outside," said Lt. Col. Kenneth King, commander of the 306th Military Police Battalion, based in Uniondale, N.Y.

Looking out on the wide, dirt access-



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Sgt. Rob Bingham, "D" Company, 132nd Brigade Support Battalion, from Madison, Wis., sits in front of his favorite mural at the Camp Bucca TIF, Dec. 19, 2009. Bingham worked at the TIF in early 2009 and said he was happy for an opportunity to take a last look around before deconstruction teams begin their work of taking the facility down.

roads between the compounds, and the constricted footpaths winding between them, peers a six-foot vignette of an elephant standing in orange, tan and green.

Elsewhere, under the shadow of a metal-framed guard tower is an impressively realistic black and white mural depicting birds flying above fishermen on the shore.

"I inherited a number of them when we arrived on Christmas of 2008," said King, a Scottsdale, Penn. native, "Many of them

were quite impressive and of high quality."

King, the final commander of the TIF, said the art played an important role for the detainees.

"It was one way to let them express themselves," he said, "It gave them something to help pass the time and the opportunity to have some degree of input regarding their environment."

**See ART, page 13**



**MWR of champions, p. 7**



**Camp handoffs continue, p. 4**



**Boosting the dinar, p.5**

## Danger Seven sends

Duty First!

It's an honor to assume responsibility as the command sergeant major of United States Division – South.

Thanks to the Army's new modular structure, elements from three of the most historic units in the U.S. Army – the 1st Infantry, 1st Armored, and 3rd Infantry Divisions – are operating in the same area under the USD-S banner.

This isn't the first time that Soldiers from these proud divisions have fought side-by-side with sand under their boots.

Three thousand miles west of here, on November 8, 1942, the "Big Red One," "Rock of the Marne," and "Old Ironsides" landed simultaneously on the beaches of North Africa as lead elements in Operation Torch.

Torch was the first major operation of the Atlantic Theater involving American troops. Within six months, Hitler's elite Afrika Korps was neutralized. In less than a year, the 1st and 3rd Infantry Divisions had landed on, and helped take, the island of Sicily. By June of 1944, the 1st Infantry Division and the 17th Fires Brigade (then known as VII Corps Artillery) were slugging it out in Normandy while the 3rd Infantry and 1st Armored Divisions were liberating Rome.

Their accomplishments show what amazing things can be done in a short time through teamwork and effort. Their legacy must drive all of us. Next time you think, "What difference can I make in just a year?" think of those veterans.

Comparing that army of 1942 to today's force, there is no doubt in my mind we are now the best trained, best equipped and most experienced military the world has ever seen.

Our formations are loaded with battle-hardened leaders who've spent almost as much time in Southwest Asia as they have in America over the past decade. Therefore, I expect the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and civilians of USD-S to finish the job with success and honor.

The mission may have changed from combat to advising and assisting, but the importance of the mission has not. As we approach the Iraqi national elections, it is critical for each and every one of you to put forth maximum effort to ensure our partners succeed.

We owe it to Iraq, we owe it to ourselves and, most importantly, we owe it to the legacies of our proud units.

Now get after it!



**Jim Champagne**  
Command Sergeant Major  
U.S. Army

Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne will be choosing photos submitted from around USD-S to feature in Danger Forward. Those whose photos are chosen will also receive a coin from Danger Seven! Turn to "A look around USD-S" on the back page to learn more.



**Major General**  
Vincent K. Brooks



**Command Sergeant Major**  
Command Sergeant Major  
Jim Champagne

## DANGER FORWARD

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17th FIB



4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div.



12th CAB



3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.



367th MPAD





# Show Me the PPE

(From the *Combat Readiness/Safety Center Knowledge Magazine*)

By 1st Sgt. Deidre M. Perry

"B" Company, 348th Brigade Support Battalion, Hinesville, Ga.

It was a crisp night in Qalat, Afghanistan, and my crew was in the midst of a 24-hour mission. Intelligence information indicated it would be a quiet evening. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case.

We'd worked throughout the day refueling all types of aircraft. Even though we'd had some downtime between missions, we knew to always be ready to refuel at a moment's notice. On this particular night, rockets were going off more than usual and everyone was nervous. Then, word came over the radio that three CH-47 Chinooks needed fuel and would arrive in 15 minutes.

As my crew was preparing to head to the forward arming and refueling point, I asked if they all had their personal protective equipment, including goggles, hearing protection and gloves. Everybody rushed to get their equipment. I, too, was scrambling to get my gear, so I did not physically check to see if everyone had their PPE.

There was a bad dust storm raging as five of us piled into a humvee and drove to the FARP. When we arrived at the fuel tankers, I saw the first CH-47 coming in.

As two of my Soldiers prepared a tanker hose to fuel the aircraft, I noticed one was not wearing goggles, just prescription glasses. I tried to yell out to him, but the aircraft drowned out my voice. I then ran to the Soldier and gave him my goggles.

The dust storm continued to howl and, along with the aircraft, blow sand everywhere. I tried to protect my face by covering it with my shirt, but it didn't help. The wind was blowing so fiercely that my eyes were full of sand.

By the time the final aircraft departed, my eyes were burning badly. My Soldiers poured water into my eyes, but it provided little relief. They rushed me back to the forward operating base and took me to the medic.

By now, both of my eyes were swollen, so I was rushed to Kandahar by air and then sent to Germany for treatment.

It took me months to recover from this incident, but I came away from it with an important lesson learned: always physically check your Soldiers to ensure they have all of their PPE. As a Leader, you can never assume everyone will have it. I'm determined to prevent a similar accident from happening to my Soldiers, so, before every mission, I make them show me their PPE. Sure, it might cost us a few extra minutes, but it might just save a Soldier's sight.

USD-S re-enlistment, Jan. 29 - Feb. 4

## 17th FiB

- **HBB**  
PFC Ana M. Garcia De Alba
- **B Btry, 1-377 FA**  
SPC Jeremy S. Dye

## 2-13 Cav Sdn

- **HHT**  
SPC Vincent E. Thompson
- **B Trp**  
SPC Ronald M. Giudice

## HHC, STB

SGT Damian Maldonado

## HHC, BCT

- SSG Kenneth S. Douglas
- SPC Brian L. Ensey
- SPC Sean M. McGrane
- SGT Nathaniel M. Morgan

## 121st BSB

- **HHC**  
SPC Daniel E. Wallace
- **A Co**  
SGT Jason I. Hammond  
SGT Elizabeth K. Townsend  
SSG Balenda L. Towolawi
- **C Co**  
SGT Crystal Moreira
- **E Co**  
SPC Velvet J. Dotson  
SPC Graham M. Kimeu
- **Rear Det**  
SGT Ritchie P. Faumina

## 4-6 Inf

- **HHC**  
SPC Spencer C. Inselmann
- **B Co**  
PFC Joshua A. Collins  
SPC Richard W. Travis  
PFC Andrew K. Webber
- **D Co**  
SPC Michael L. Harris
- **E Co**  
SPC Leilani J. Chelette  
SGT Jacob S. Irish

## E Co, 1-77 AR

- SPC Patrick S. Berg
- SPC Jason S. Grieco
- PV2 Matthew D. Litten

## 2-29 FA

- **A Btry**  
SGT Steven R. Hess
- **B Btry**  
SGT Mark Maluwelfil

## 1st Inf Div

- **Intel & Sust Co**  
SSG Michael R. Moseman  
SSG Yuri E. Brown
- **HSC**  
SPC Jonathan M. Adams  
SPC Casey L. Willis  
SSG Dameatrice B. Palmore  
SSG Brian J. Sladky

- **Signal Co**  
SPC Lamarr D. Johnson

- **Operations Co**  
SSG Michael R. Ricke

## 3HBCT, 3rd Inf Div

- **1-10FA**  
PFC Hector O. Angulo  
SPC Tierra J. Jones  
SPC Joey S. Payton  
SPC Bryan D. Wilson
- **1-15IN**  
SSG Clifford K. Bonner  
SSG Jimmy L. Bolden  
SGT Jesus A. Lopez  
SPC Steven N. Myers  
PFC Colten R. Niklaus  
PFC Paul A. Robinson  
SPC Christopher M. Snyder

## - 203D BSB

- PFC Jordan K. Hubbard  
SGT Bladimyl, Natal  
SGT Jamaal L. Roberts  
SPC Lisa M. Sanchez  
SGT Claudia L. Schaffner Kannel  
SPC Victor M. Quinonesvelez

## - 2-69AR

- SPC Robert J. Casados  
SPC Dustin Erwin  
SGT Robert N. Garner  
SPC Jeremie J. Griffiths  
PFC Drew W. Hargus  
SGT Pedro L. Hernandez  
PFC Ryan P. McKenzie  
SPC Schelton R. Purnell  
SGT Horste E. Weber Jr.  
PFC Derek J. Whitman  
PFC Octavia M. Young

## - 3-1CAV

SGT Donald R. Randall Jr

## - BSTB

- SPC Todd M. Boetticher  
PFC Scott O. Brayan  
SGT Charles R. Landry Jr.  
SGT Robert T. Rivas  
SGT Rick M. Sanchez

## 412TH ASB

- SPC Ryan Lee Emerson  
SGT Jairo Esteban Nicanor  
SSG Wayne Aaron Reynolds  
SSG Charles Robert Showers  
SPC Michael Brandon Tobin  
SGT Hilde Enrique Vega

## 5-158 GSAB

SGT Francisco Mosquit  
Manibusan

## 1-214TH GSAB

- SPC Jay Lee McCubbin  
PFC Daniel Poao Tuitele  
SSG William Jerome Moses  
Wilson

## 2-159 ARB

- SGT Joshua Allan Teremy  
SSG Fabian Rene Webster

## 3-158 AVN

- SGT Brett Michae Babin  
SPC Andrew Jon Beardsley

# This week in Army history

## *This week in Big Red One history*

Feb. 10, 1967: Just prior to Operation Junction City and 52 continuous days of pounding enemy forces in War Zone "C," Maj. Gen. John H. Hay assumed command of the Big Red One in Vietnam.

## *This week in OIF history*

Feb. 10, 2003: The Secretary of Defense issued a message on embedding media in the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility. Commanders were directed to provide billeting, rations, and medical attention, if needed, to the embedded media.

## *This week in 17th Fires Brigade history*

Feb 8, 1919: The 17th Field Artillery Brigade, assigned to the 17th Division, was demobilized in Fort Sill, Okla., following the end of WW I. The 17th FAB was activated again in 1943 to answer the new threat in Europe.

## US returns more camps to ISF

By Sgt. 1st Class Samantha M. Stryker  
17th Fires Brigade PAO

**BASRAH** – U.S. military leaders returned four camps to the government of Iraq in the country's southern region Jan. 30.

In a second round of camp closures in Basrah Province in the last month, U.S. forces and their Iraqi Army counterparts held ceremonies signifying the increasing ability of Iraqi Security Forces to provide stability to the region as U.S. combat troops drawdown in accordance with the historic security agreement.

The ceremonies were attended by Col. Steven L. Bullimore, 17th Fires Brigade commander, Sameer Alhaddad, a representative of the chief of staff of the Iraqi prime minister, and Maj. Gen. Abdul Aziz Noor Swady al Dalmy, 14th Iraqi Army Division commander.

Alhaddad talked about what the events mean to the Iraqi people, their government and their U.S. partners.

"These events show that democracy is being improved, the security issue is being improved, and government is moving forward," he said. "It shows that the army is stronger and is capable of handling our security, capable to move forward against terrorism."

The ceremonies have an important impact on the partnership between Iraq and the U.S., Bullimore said.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Samantha M. Stryker  
Iraqi soldiers from 52nd Bde., 14th IA Div. and American Soldiers from 1st Bn., 77th AR, 4th Bde., 1st Armd. Div. watch the return ceremony at Camp Sa'ad, Jan. 29.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Samantha M. Stryker  
Sameer Alhaddad, a representative of the chief of staff of the Iraqi prime minister, shakes hands with 1st Lt. Michael Frizzelle, "B" Co., 1st Bn., 77th AR, 1st Armd. Div., after both men signed paperwork returning the camp "Naval Base" to the Iraqi Government, Jan. 29.

"These ceremonies are the official start of a significant change in day-to-day operations and a public demonstration of our transition with the Iraqi military," He said. "This transition to tenancy on these four bases sets the conditions for physical moves after the elections."

The ceremonies were held at Al Hindi-yah, Camp Sa'ad, Camp Wessam and the camp known as Naval Base, where American Military Transition Teams are housed as they train, advise and conduct joint-military operations with Iraqi forces.

The ceremonies began mid-morning at Naval Base, headquarters of the 50th Bde., 14th IA Div., responsible for the security in the eastern part of Basrah city.

Afterward, leaders walked to Al Hindi-yah, where the 53rd Bde. headquarters is located, about three city blocks from Naval Base. Sameer and the military leaders confidently walked along the city streets as Iraqi forces provided security.

"Basrah is proof that the Iraqi Army is strong enough to take over security and we will show the people that the government can protect them," Alhaddad said. "Today we walked down the street with a few American military, and we proved we could provide for their security."

"The American Army can walk down

the street and walk with the Iraqi people," he said.

Each ceremony involved a platoon of U.S. and Iraqi soldiers positioned next to each other, representing the partnership the two militaries have shared for years.

Alhaddad greeted soldiers and talked about the mood of the events.

"You can see the happiness in the eyes of the American Army; they did a great job in Iraq helping the people stand up," he said. "At the same time, we see the happiness in the Iraqi Army eyes as they receive the property and continue to prove they are capable to secure the area."

Bullimore said that the relocation of U.S. forces would not deteriorate the working relationship between the armies.

According to Maj. Kevin Jackson, 17th FiB operations officer, the Soldiers who lived and worked at three of the four camps will now leave from a U.S. base to meet up with their Iraqi partners to continue training and advising them.

Jackson said that the few remaining U.S. troops at camp Wessam will continue to live and work at the 14th IA Div., headquarters for the duration of the brigade's time in country.

For more from 17th FiB, visit  
<http://www.lewis.army.mil/17FA/>



## Program bolsters Iraqi currency, economy

By Pfc. Lisa A. Cope

13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

**COB BASRA** – United States currency may soon be difficult to find in Iraq as the result of an effort by the U.S. military to protect Soldiers and increase the value of the Iraqi dinar.

Sgt. Brittany A. Raimer, a dispersing manager with the Wichita, Kan.-based 368th Finance Management Company, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command, said the effort will help to stimulate the economy of Iraq and build the confidence level the people have in the Iraqi dinar.

"One of the main focuses of finance is to ultimately eliminate U.S. currency from the battlefield," said Raimer, a Lake Charles, La., native. "Our government is implementing the use of the Iraqi dinar to both undermine the dependency the Iraqi nationals have on American currency and to back the dinar, greatly increasing its weight on the market."

The U.S. government now uses electronic fund transfers to pay vendors and contractors and encourages service members to rely on Eagle Cash Cards rather than cash, two major changes implemented to eliminate the use of U.S. dollars in

Iraq, said Raimer.

"The Eagle Cash Card enables personnel to have a direct link to the bank account without the hassle of hard cash," said Raimer. "The stored value card has been instrumental in effectively moving toward a cashless battlefield."

Sgt. Toni M. Guillery, a dispersing agent with the 368th FM Co. and also a Lake Charles, La., native, said the Eagle Cash Card is designed to help prevent service members from losing money or being robbed while in country by giving them a portable form of payment that doesn't require phone or internet service like credit and debit cards, but still offers the security of a requiring a PIN to use.

Still, the system is not without risks, and Soldiers should safeguard the card in the same way they would any other card or cash.

"Carrying a single card is better than carrying a wad of money in your pocket, but one concern that I do have is, on the kiosks, you have to use a pin number in order to access the money, but when you go to vendors, you do not," said Guillery. "If you [fill the card] up to the max, and you lose that card, and somebody picks it up and finds it and they are a dishonest person, they can go and spend that



money."

The finance office dispurses U.S. dollars, but only for specific circumstances.

Guillery said the unit only disburses U.S. cash to service members who are about to go on mid-tour leave or re-deploy.

The unit disburses less than \$10,000 in U.S. cash per month, he said, but disburses more than 1,000,000 dinar – the equivalent of roughly \$300,000 – per month.

The current exchange rate is D 1,170 to \$1, said Guillery.

Raimer said the transition away from the U.S. dollar has aided the banking industry in Iraq.

"The progression [away from U.S. currency] has greatly supported the modernization of the banking system," she said, "thus improving and instilling trust in the local economy."

For more from 13th ESC, visit [www.dvidshub.net/units](http://www.dvidshub.net/units)



Photo by Pfc. Lisa A. Cope

The finance office's cash drawer at COB Basra, Jan. 27, illustrates efforts to reduce U.S. cash in circulation in Iraq. The 368th FM Co. disburses less than \$10,000 in U.S. cash per month, but disburses more than 1,000,000 Iraqi dinar – the equivalent of roughly \$300,000 – per month.

## Music, and all that Jazz: Soldier speaks to others through his saxophone

By Sgt Francis Horton  
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

**COB BASRA** – While Soldiers relax in “Holy Joes” on Contingency Operating Base Basra, there are clunks and chatter from the stage.

The 1st Infantry Division Jazz Band is bringing in their equipment.

Power cords are being run, instruments tuned and fingers and lips limbered.

Sgt. James D. Shank, saxophone player for the 1st Inf. Div. band and Baltimore, Md., native, is preparing himself for a nearly two-hour set.

Behind him is the rest of the band: Sgt 1st Class Dan Rhoades on the bass guitar, Sgt. 1st Class Brandy Hagin playing the drums, Staff Sgt. Greg Ybarra on the trumpet and Sgt. Brendan Osweiler playing the keyboard.

Shank comes off as a quiet sort of Soldier.

He isn’t overly engaging to the crowd gathered in the chapel, preferring to let them go about their conversations and board games.

The 26-year-old lets his talents speak for him, seeming at home as soon as his hands take hold of the saxophone. As the dulcet tones pour from his instrument, he falls into the music.

Despite his relative youth, Shank has had a love of jazz from an early age.

It started at a jazz concert when he was 11. As soon as he heard the saxophone, he fell in love, he said.

“I started listening to jazz more and more after that,” Shank said.

He was influenced by the classics, from John Coltrane, a pioneer of jazz music in the 50s, to Dan Higgins, who can be heard playing the saxophone on the TV show “The Simpsons” as Bleeding Gums Murphy.

Shank started taking private lessons and continued with them all through high



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton

**Stepping off the stage and away from his music sheet, Sgt. James D. Shank plays to the crowd gathered at Holy Joes on COB Basra, Jan. 29. Shank has been serving for the last seven years in the Army, and when he isn’t honing his musical skills, he is studying for the pilot’s exam he plans to take.**

school.

He moved on to playing in his community college band while taking mostly general education credits.

When a recruiter found him, Shank put his demands on the table: It would be band or nothing.

After basic training, he traveled to the Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk, Va. For six months, he and other Army band members trained in music theory, took private lessons and honed the skills they came with.

“Music is easy for me,” Shank said.

Perhaps “easy” is not a word most people would attribute to his self-imposed

training regimen. Shank will practice for hours at a time if given the chance – sometimes upwards of eight hours a day.

After basic training and advanced individual training, he found himself assigned to the 1st Inf. Div.’s field band. He soon found himself moved to the jazz combo, and he has been playing with them ever since.

The jazz group isn’t the only specialized band the “Big Red One” brought with them to COB Basra. There is also a country band, two rock bands and a salsa band is being planned.

For Shank, the talent doesn’t stop with the band. Additional duties for him and the other members of the band include delivery of the Stars and Stripes newspapers across COB Basra and creating badges for local Iraqi civilians who work on base.

“It’s a lot more secure now at the (entry control point),” Shank said.

The access points have been consolidated into one general area, boosting security and efficiency.

Shank has been serving in the Army for the last seven years, and when he isn’t honing his skills, he is studying for the piloting exam he plans to take. Once he is ready, he hopes to move into aviation.

Shank isn’t limited to just the saxophone. He is also proficient on the flute, bassoon, oboe and piccolo, he said. But it’s the sax he focuses on.

“Hopefully I’ll get to play jazz with the Army in Korea,” he said.

As for his musical future, Shank plans to keep playing, but ultimately as a hobby rather than a job.

“Eventually you get burned out. Music should be fun,” he said.

The jazz band can be heard at Holy Joes, Friday and Monday nights at 6 p.m., but they are looking to expand to other venues on base.

**For more from USD-S PAO visit  
[www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision](https://www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision)**



# Tours of duty first:

## Award-winning MWR team keeps morale high in USD-S

By Spc. Samuel Soza,  
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

**COB BASRA** – The line stretched the length of the USO at Contingency Operating Base Basra, Jan. 30, and who wouldn't want to meet and get autographs from the Florida Marlins cheerleaders or players and managers?

It was the same for country music star Kellie Pickler, professional mixed martial arts fighter Tito Ortiz and the soft-rock band Cracker.

These entertainers did not land in Iraq by themselves, however.

It all came together thanks in no small part to COB Basra's award-winning Morale, Welfare and Recreation team.

Jimmy Roddy is an MWR community recreation officer working alongside Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division in the nine provinces that comprise United States Division-South.

"We're here to make sure that the entertainment gets out to all the areas in the South," said the Army brat from Tuscon, Ariz., "Basically from Bucca, which is Umm Qasr, right near Kuwait, up to Kalsu, a little bit south of Baghdad."

"My other responsibilities include being a kind of gym coordinator, seeing what MWR those areas might need," Roddy said.

As a civilian, Roddy does not carry a rifle. Instead, he is armed with lines of communication.

From his desk, he makes purchases for gyms, reallocates extra equipment at various bases and assists in bringing tours of entertainers to the service members in USD-S – such as the upcoming tour featuring former Pussycat Doll singer Kaya Jones.

"She'll be in the South, [early] February," he said.

Working such a big area has not forced the MWR team to focus their efforts on larger bases, but rather the opposite, establishing a precedent for touring routes and acts that touch the entire area.

Such was the case when Tito Ortiz visited the area in December and wanted to meet Soldiers at one of the smaller bases.

"That was the first time [patrol base] Minden saw anyone," said Roddy, "Minden's a prime example – because they are so isolated, sometimes it's a logistical nightmare, but if we can get out there, we will."

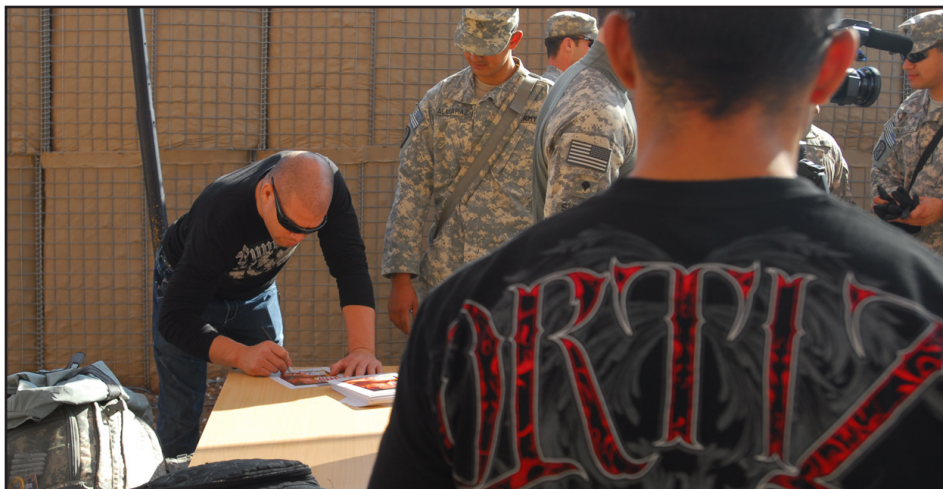


Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Professional mixed martial arts fighter Tito Ortiz autographs pictures for Soldiers at PB Minden, Dec. 14, 2009. Ortiz' visit was to thank Soldiers for their service.



Photo by Dave Gatley, USO

Jimmy Roddy, an MWR community recreation officer for USD-S, displays a gift from the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Inf. Div., while accompanying country music star Kellie Pickler on an entertainment tour, Jan. 16, at Forward Operating Base Kalsu.

So few were the Soldiers at Minden that the allotted hour for the meet-and-greet was shaved in half.

That led to a spontaneous trip to the tiny gym at the patrol base, where Ortiz showed the Soldiers some new submission moves for their hand-to-hand repertoire and even had a few takers for some quick matches.

Their resolve to serve troops even in the most remote parts southern of Iraq recently won Roddy and his colleague, Emma Burghart, the Superior Civilian Service Award.

"That award was mainly for how we made a difference in getting the shows out," he said. "We made a difference, also, in the type of shows. We've started getting bigger names out here and it's because we've shown that we can take care of them."

Part of taking care of the acts directly involves Soldiers as well.

"Basically, what we do is [assign tasks to] the units to help," he said, "Without the units, we wouldn't be as successful – whether it's moving the gear to the stage, baggage detail, transportation, security, housing."

The MWR team works with entertainment tours of varying size, both in stardom and personnel.

The ease of coordinating these tours relies on various considerations, Roddy said.

See **TOURS**, page 12

# USO goes big-game fishing, catches Marlins

By Spc. Maurice A. Galloway  
17th Fires Brigade PAO

**COB BASRA** – As spring draws near, the “boys of summer” usually spend their time doing drills or batting practice in preparation for the 162-game Major League Baseball season.

However, the Florida Marlins ball club sent a few of its members on a week-long tour of Iraq to visit service members, Department of Defense civilians and contractors deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Fredi Gonzalez, Marlins team manager, Larry Beinfest, president of baseball operations, John Baker, a catcher for the ball club, Chris Coghlan the National League Rookie of the Year left fielder, and four stunning ladies of the Marlins Mermaids -- Carin Luna, Estefania Ruiz, Natalie Guzman, and Christina Villamizar -- visited the USO on Contingency Operating Base Basra Jan. 30.

The group laughed and joked with fans, while signing autographs and baseballs for all who visited.

“It’s been great to be able to come here,” said Coghlan. “We’ve visited nine bases thus far and one of the nicer experiences we’ve had was being able to go to the smaller bases and meet those Soldiers who’ve said that they haven’t had any



Photo by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway

**Chris Coghlan, Florida Marlins left fielder and National League Rookie of the Year, autographs photos for service members, Department of Defense civilians and contractors at COB Basra's USO, Jan. 30. Members of the team and management visited during a week-long tour of Iraq.**

visitors.”

Baker and Coghlan have relatives who served in the Armed Forces. Coghlan’s brother is a Marine and served two tours in Iraq, while Baker has retired Army members sprinkled throughout his family.

Finishing second in the National League East behind the Philadelphia Phillies, Coghlan is very optimistic about the Marlins’ chances this season.

“I feel like we’re in a good position to have a great season this year,” Coghlan said. “We are returning a lot of starters which will give us that extra experience needed come playoff time.”

Just like the hot dog lines at ball parks across the U.S., the lines at the USO were a bit long, but the wait wasn’t. Each person was able to spend a few moments chatting with the Marlins group while having their picture taken or getting a picture autographed.

“It takes away all of the stress of being out here,” said Pvt. Michael W. Hines, 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment, network administrator.

Many Soldiers from the newly arrived 1st Infantry Division met with the Sunshine State guests, pausing briefly from their preparations to assume command of United States Division-South.

“We’ve trained for so long for this mission and are ready to get started, but it’s nice to know that the USO offers a brief escape by connecting Soldiers with guests like these from back home,” said Sgt. Robert W. Maston, 1st Inf. Div., signal intelligence analyst and native of St. Marys, W.Va.

Later that evening, the Mermaids put

**See MARLINS, page 12**



Photo by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway

**Carin Luna, Estefania Ruiz, Natalie Guzman and Christina Villamizar, members of the Florida Marlins Mermaids, send love and support to all of the service members, Department of Defense civilians, and contractors deployed to Kuwait and Iraq during their visit to COB Basra's USO Jan. 30.**



## Scorched but not scarred: A hero's valor honored

By Spc. Maurice A. Galloway  
17th Fires Brigade PAO

**COB BASRA** – “Nothing seemed different; it was just like any other time that we went out. I was scanning my area, up, down, side-to-side, just as I’ve been taught. We pulled in to the area and everything seemed as it had on so many other occasions, until...”

That’s how Pfc. Cameron R. Hebert, a gunner from Berry, Ala., recalled the day he was hit with a Molotov cocktail.

Early that morning, Jan. 5, 2010, Hebert and the Soldiers of Team 1, Brigade Maneuver Element, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 17th Fires Brigade, were escorting a civil affairs team to Timinyah, in Basrah, Iraq. Their mission was to talk to the people of the area about how they could help better their community.

“We escorted the team through the area and they conducted their assessment without any problems, but it was clear by the

tension in the atmosphere that we were not welcomed,” said Staff Sgt. Richard Chapel, convoy commander.

The team finished talking to those who were not scared to speak, and were escorted safely back to the vehicles for the return trip home. That’s when things took a turn for the worse.

“There were kids that were throwing rocks at the convoy, so I began scanning slowly in their direction to ensure the situation didn’t escalate, Hebert said.

While Hebert was keeping the miscreant stone bearers at bay, little did he know that behind him lurked an insurgent determined to take his life.

As the convoy began rolling out, Sgt. 1st Class John C. Zanella, BME noncommissioned officer in charge, was first to notice the attacker approaching.

“I saw a man who looked to be in his mid-twenties running towards us with a Molotov cocktail in his hand,” Zanella said.

A Molotov cocktail, also known as a gasoline or petrol bomb, is comprised of a glass bottle of fuel with a source of ignition such as a burning cloth wick. Thickening agents are added to give an adhesive affect, ensuring extensive damage.

With the explosive in the attacker’s hand and his arm drawn back to throw it, Zanella fired from the moving vehicle.

The man hurled the volatile cocktail and turned to a nearby alley. Zanella fired two more shots and gave chase, keeping his eyes on the suspect while radioing his position for his team members to follow.

The bottle landed squarely on the side of Hebert’s turret and instantly engulfed the turret in flames.

“I just remember it getting very hot. I glanced around and then saw the flames climbing up the side of my right arm,” Hebert said.

In shock, Hebert calmly said, “I’m on fire.” Realizing the seriousness of his state he frantically repeated, “I’m on fire, I’m on fire!”

Seeing the flames from a vehicle ahead, Staff Sgt. Joseph R. Dye, personal security officer, raced to the truck where the driver, Pfc. Brittany D. Gutierrez, released the combat-locked door, giving Dye access to the fire extinguisher.

Hebert dropped into the vehicle through the gunner’s hatch.

“I could feel the heat from flames climbing up my arm towards my neck,” he said. “That’s when I saw Sergeant Dye with the fire extinguisher. He put out the flames and our medic, Specialist Frazier, immediately began treating my wounds.”

“When she finished, she asked me if I was OK and I told her, ‘It hurts a little, but I’m good.’ She asked, ‘Are you sure?’ I said, ‘Yeah I’m good.’ Then I got back in to the turret and started scanning my area again,” Hebert said.

See **SCORCHED**, page 14



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Samantha M. Stryker  
Col. Steven L. Bullimore, 17th FiB commander, pins the Purple Heart medal on Pfc. Cameron R. Hebert, a gunner with the BME, HHB, 17th FiB, Jan. 29, for wounds he received Jan. 5.

# Read-in draws inspiration from past, emphasizes looking to the future

By Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey  
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

**COB BASRA** – Backed by a full jazz ensemble from the 1st Infantry Division band, service members from around Contingency Operating Base Basra gathered for a “read-in,” kicking-off Black History Month with a celebration of African-American literature and music.

Yet, as the night wore on, the focus shifted from a purely literary one, and Soldiers took the opportunity to share with each other a bit about the inspirations they have taken from African-American history and from their own histories.

Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Jordan, equal opportunity advisor, 1st Inf. Div., and a St. Louis native, started off the night with a piece she read touching on the meaning and purpose of the event, and invited the other service members present to come forward and share.

The first to answer her challenge was Sgt. Mario Ward, noncommissioned officer in charge of the shop office, 546th Maintenance Company.

The Westpoint, Miss., native started out with a spoken word piece about not letting the past hold one back, transitioning into song at the end, his obvious talent

meeting with an energetic response from the audience.

“No more looking back; I keep looking forward, ya’ll,” he said at the end.

Ward was followed by Master Sgt. Thomas Miskevish, sexual assault response coordinator, Headquarters Supply Company, 1st Inf. Div., who read “A Dream Deferred,” by Langston Hughes.

The Charleston, W.Va., native recounted the struggles Hughes, one of the foremost American poets of the last century, faced throughout his life, calling for people to see it as inspiration.

“If you keep pushing toward that goal,” he said, “you can reach those dreams.”

The next two Soldiers to share touched on similar themes, and one talked about the significance of having the first ever African-American commander in chief.

When no one immediately volunteered to follow them, Ward was unanimously called back to the stage by the crowd, and encored with the spiritual, “Wade in the Water.”

Next, Jordan passed the microphone around the room, asking the audience members to share something about what Black History Month meant to them and, whether there was any one person who served as inspiration in their lives in a way



Photo by Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey  
**Sgt. Mario Ward, NCOIC of the shop office, 546th Maint. Co., performed a mix of spoken word and music – with several audience-spurred encores – during the African-American Read-In at Echoes, Feb. 2.**

that related to the theme of the evening.

Jordan went into an impromptu, yet inspired speech, citing the significance of simply being able to serve in the military as an Black woman. She said, for her, Black History Month means “dedication, education and motivation.”

“Black history is everywhere you go,” she said. “It is letting me know I can do whatever I want to do.”

Miskevish talked about a hero of his childhood, Muhammad Ali, who paved the way for greater opportunities for minorities.

“He was not just a boxer to me,” Miskevish said; “he transformed the world of sports.”

As the microphone was passed around, one Soldier talked about the inspiration she took from her mother, a military mom, and the example she set as a strong woman raising her in New Orleans.

Another Soldier talked about her grand-  
**See READ-IN, page 12**



Photo by Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey  
**Members of the Gospel Service choir sing “Lily in the Valley” at Echoes, a restaurant on COB Basra, at the conclusion of the African-American Read-In, Feb. 2. The entire evening was filled with music by the “Spirit of the 1st ID” jazz ensemble, a detachment of the 1st Inf. Div. band.**



# Fuelers take pride in mission enhancement

By Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart  
TF 12 PAO

**COB ADDER** – Many people have spent a good part of their teenage years working at a gas station, with aspirations of moving on to something better.

However, for some of the Soldiers with "A" Company, 412th Aviation Support Battalion, "pumping gas" is their priority, and they look forward to it every day. Taking their show on the road Dec. 26, 2009, they assumed the Forward Arming and Refueling Point at Forward Operating Site Garryowen.

"We're like the gas station for aircraft," said Staff Sgt. Terrence T. Adams, a fueler with "A" Co., 412th ASB, said.

Moving from Contingency Operating Base Adder to FOS Garryowen over the course of three days, more than a dozen fuelers and a mechanic from Headquarters Support Co., 412th ASB, assumed one of the many missions to run a FARP in theater, said 1st Lt. Joseph Fyfe, commander, "A" Co.

"Our company has three different platoons - ammo, fuel and the SSA (supply



Photo by Cpl. Christopher M. Sacry

**Soldiers with "A" Co., 412th ASB, Task Force 12, stand ready to take on the next refueling operation at one of the FARPs on FOS Garryowen Jan. 12. "We're like the gas station for aircraft," said Staff Sgt. Terrence T. Adams, a fueler with "A" Co., 412th ASB.**

services activity)," Fyfe said. "When our guys get a mission, either we can or we can't support it. If we can, we go."

He described what they do as "mission enhancement" for the overall taskforce.

Their mission keeps other missions on track.

"For Garryowen, it is more of a back-fill, so we are going to take this mission until the other unit can come in to take over," Adams said.

Typically, "A" Co. fuelers handle 30 aircraft per day and pump almost 200,000 gallons of fuel over a month, using both cold fuel and hot fuel methods, Adams said.

Cold fueling is what most people think of when fueling any vehicle: the vehicle is shut off and not on a mission. Hot fueling is when the aircraft is still running and usually on a mission that requires it to continue-on or return immediately.

Different aircraft and different fueling methods require knowing their equipment well. Certain aircraft require a specific type of nozzle.

Adams said they are ready and able to refuel everything "from Sherpas to Ospreys to C-12s" and everything in between.

"It feels good to get off base. We are excited to go," Adams said. "Garryowen is not as isolated as here. And everyone volunteered for the mission."

**For more from TF 12, visit  
[www.dvidshub.net/units](http://www.dvidshub.net/units)**



Photo by Cpl. Christopher M. Sacry

**Soldiers with "A" Co., 412th ASB, Task Force 12, stand ready for the next refueling operation at one of the FARPs on FOS Garryowen Jan. 12. Typically, "A" Co. fuelers handle 30 aircraft per day and pump almost 200,000 gallons of fuel over a month.**



**READ-IN, from page 10**

parents, who raised and cared for their 15 children, although neither had gone past 8th grade and they had to make their living picking cotton in Mississippi.



Photo by Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey  
Master Sgt. Thomas Miskevish, sexual assault response coordinator, HSC, 1st Inf. Div., reads Langston Hughes' poem "A Dream Deferred" as part of the African-American Read-In at COB Basra, Feb. 2.

Yet another talked about her stepfather, who she felt inspired by because he had been a Black Panther.

Another poem, Maya Angelou's "What if I Am a Black Woman," was read by 1st Lt. Shamika Hill, officer in charge of command information for the 367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, attached to 1st Inf. Div.

Toward the end, Ward returned to the stage and talked about his own inspirations.

Ward said his mother played a pivotal role in his life. She believed in him and encouraged him in his singing, even when he was 7 years old and had written a song no one else wanted to hear.

He also talked about the ongoing inspiration his wife gives him and the many things she has taught him from her own Puerto Rican background.

"She's always pushed me and said, 'Do you; let it out,'" he said.

As the night closed, Ward was joined by other members of the Gospel Service choir and, backed by the "Spirit of the 1st ID" jazz ensemble, they wrapped up with "Lilly in the Valley."

For more from USD-S PAO visit  
[www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision](http://www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision)



Photo by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway  
Sgt. Robert W. Maston, 1st Inf. Div., signal intelligence analyst and native of St. Marys, W.Va., shakes hands with Fredi Gonzalez, team manager for Major League Baseball's Florida Marlins, at COB Basra's USO Jan. 30, during the Marlins "Visit the Troops" week-long tour throughout Iraq.

**MARLINS, from page 8**

on a performance for all the service members, while the players enjoyed the show and talked more baseball with the fans.

"It's nice to be able to thank these Soldiers in person for all that they do for our country," Coghlan said. "Really, I feel that we are walking away winners."

For more from 17th FiB, visit  
<http://www.lewis.army.mil/17FA/>

**TOURS, from page 7**

"It depends how big they are," he said, "Kellie Pickler put on more of an acoustic show, so we were able to do two shows

a day. Typically, comedians [and] meet-and-greets are two-a-day, but if it's a big band, then there's a lot of equipment, and they'll usually do one show a day."



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza  
Professional mixed martial arts fighter Tito Ortiz poses for a picture with Pfc. Dakota Shirley, a mine resistant ambush protected vehicle driver with 17th Fires Brigade and a native of Ganado, Ariz., at PB Minden, Dec. 14, 2009, during one of the tours COB Basra's MWR team facilitated.

Roddy said the team does not choose artists or entertainers they prefer.

"It's not about me," he said, "It's about the Soldier."

The Soldiers' feedback is what helps the MWR team know which tours should be invited back and which ones to recommend to other MWR teams across Iraq, he said.

Roddy arrived at COB Basra Sept. 1. In late March, he will make his way back to his station at Camp Darby, Italy, and continue his 11-year career with MWR at the gym there.

"I volunteered to come over here, to see what it's like, to make a difference," he said.

"I think that what we've done in the past five months has been a great benefit for the Soldiers," Roddy said, "It's a huge team effort, because we couldn't cover all the areas in the south without the units. They do a great job."

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**ART, from page 1**

King was preceded as TIF commander by Detroit native Col. Rodney Faulk, who was at Bucca from 2007 to 2008.

"The detainee's always had a proclivity for art," said Faulk, deputy commander of the 300th MP Brigade, an Army Reserve unit from Inkster, Mich.

Faulk, in turn, inherited command from Col. Jim Brown, then-commander of the 18th MP Bde., and said that it was during Brown's time that the murals began to be painted.

"He was working hard on giving the detainees alternatives to violence," he said.

According to Faulk, Brown didn't give the detainees any guidance on what could and could not be painted.

"They were able to express the nature of the human spirit," said Faulk, "This manifested itself in many ways."

Numerous murals depicted scenes about water and it is not uncommon for a wall to display as many as four works from different artists.

"I always found a couple of themes," said Faulk, "One of the common themes was of American and Iraqi partnership. Another theme was about good versus evil and talked about stamping out violence."

"I recall seeing what looked like Iraqis and American Soldiers killing a serpent which is a traditional symbol of evil," he

said.

Other times, the images were less figurative and more literal.

"They would also branch out and paint other subjects, such as children and beautiful women," said Faulk, "If you look real close, there is a unique style."

Even some of the cement-floored buildings were adorned by flowered vines painted around the interior door frame.

Among the number of people who passed through the detention center, a few were practiced painters. One of the most prolific artists was known by the pseudonym "Mohammed Pecasó."

The entrance to Compound 12 features one of his works on two large concrete barriers turned from their usual gray to a bright yellow scene of Iraqi and American cooperation sealed with a handshake.

"Mohammed Pecasó" was a detainee who had some knowledge of painting," said Maj. Corey Schultz, media and marketing officer at Army Reserve Communications, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, in Washington, DC.

From 2007 to 2008, then-captain Schultz worked with Faulk, serving as the public affairs officer for the 300th MP Bde.

"The supplies were mostly donated, from Soldiers and folks back home," said Schultz, a Flint, Mich. native.

Pecasó "kind of ran things" at the art

school, Faulk said, and, just as some of the student's murals had deeper meaning, so did the school.

"Beyond the art, there was job skill training, education and explanation of good governance," Faulk said.

The vocational school, later called the Centurion Skills Institute, taught a variety of trades including tilling, carpentry, reading, drawing and painting.

There was even a project that combined vocational training and creating gifts for the detainees' families.

"Bucca Bears" were made by detainees in another class that we offered: sewing," King said, "They were not for sale to Soldiers – a [would-be] violation of General Order One – but were given to children when families visited detainees."

"They were made from materials within the TIF – predominantly the yellow blankets and cloth," he said.

The facility even had a brick factory, and the bricks produced there were used both in building the factory's walls and in rebuilding projects in the cities around Basrah Province.

The aim of the vocational training was to empower detainees in preparation for their departure from Bucca.

"What we were essentially doing in 2008 was moving from an EPW [enemy prisoner of war] to a corrections model," Schultz said, "Trying to assess and prepare the detainees so that, upon release, they had some marketable skills and could support themselves that way, rather than being paid by insurgents to dig holes for IEDs."

Faulk agreed.

"There are a lot of stories that [seem to] say we think we've changed a person overnight but we're not that naïve," he said, "You can teach someone to read and give them a skill and they might still go out and plant IEDs."

The TIF personnel hoped that the skills detainees learned while incarcerated put them in a position to refuse the dangerous jobs as an insurgent mercenary.

According to Schultz, the change in the re-interment rate during this time was "statistically significant", dropping from 8-10 percent down to 1.5-3 percent.



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

A mural done by a detainee known by the pseudonym "Mohammed Pecasó," at the Camp Bucca TIF. Mohammed taught many other students at the art school and was released in 2008.

**NEXT PAGE**



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Geneva Convention considerations for the rights of detainees may leave U.S. military leaders no choice but to tear down the murals painted by former detainees at the Camp Bucca TIF, which closed Sept. 16, 2009, during the facility's deconstruction.

#### ART, from previous page

The vocational programs not only prepared detainees for their time after leaving Bucca, but also promoted their safety, and that of the TIF personnel, during their stay.

Boredom quickly set in during detention and, if left unchecked, could be a security concern, said Faulk.

"All along, the American Soldiers have operated according to the spirit of the Geneva Convention and executed safe care and custody of detainees," he said, "The programs are just a manifestation of that custody."

The policies of the Geneva Convention also have an enormous effect on the future of the art.

"We cannot sell it," said Faulk, "First, because it was produced with government funds, even though a nominal amount. Second, the Geneva Convention prohibits the exploitation of detainees, so we could not have an exhibit."

The policy did not, however, prohibit the MPs from setting one

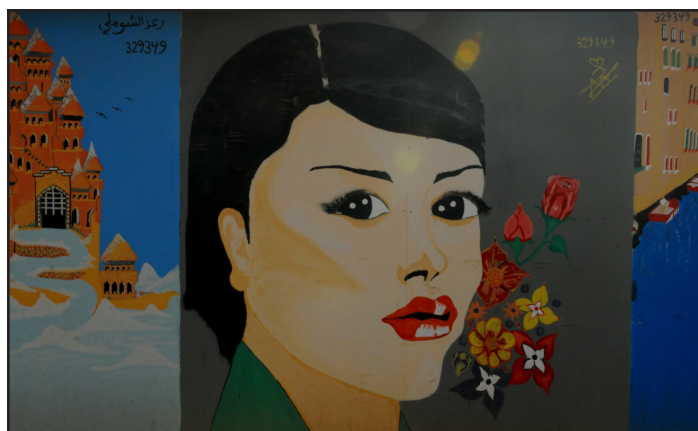


Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Numerous murals painted by detainees at the Camp Bucca TIF exhibited figurative themes about good versus evil, while others had more literal subjects like serene water landscapes or women and children.

of the pieces aside.

"It's small but it is a part of the unit's history," said Faulk.

As the Iraqi civilian and Army deconstruction teams move closer to their mission of tearing down the TIF, it is likely that there may be no choice but to reduce the art to rubble.

However, even if the names of artists like Mohammed Pecaso are torn down, the real legacy is in the people who passed through the TIF, said Faulk.

"Pecaso was released, and that is a good thing," he said, "I got to be there for his release. It's a record of transformation from an insurgent to a man of peace, and I hope that it holds true for the rest of his life."

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#### SCORCHED, from page 9

Moments later, Zanella radioed back to the convoy that he and a few members of the team, along-side the Iraqi Army, had chased the suspect into what he described as a mosque.

Members of the Iraqi Army entered the mosque and brought out several individuals matching the description of the attacker for Zanella to identify.

Through the help of an interpreter, Zanella identified the attacker, but the Iraqi Army was hesitant to detain the individual, as



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Samantha M. Stryker

Pfc. Cameron R. Hebert and Sgt. 1st Class John C. Zanella, his NCOIC of the BME, HHB, 17th FiB, sit on top of Hebert's vehicle by the spot a Molotov cocktail struck, burning Hebert's arm, Jan. 5.

they did not witness the attack.

Zanella then gave instructions to Cpl. Dustin J. Anderson, truck commander, to put the suspect in wrist restraints and turn him over to the Iraqi soldiers.

After returning safely to Contingency Operating Base Basra, the events of the day were reported and Hebert went to the medical center for further treatment. After a medical examination cleared Hebert for duty, he was off on another mission a few hours later.

A couple of weeks later outside the HHB "Lightening" headquarters, an award ceremony was held in Hebert's honor. He stood proudly in front of a small formation and was presented a Purple Heart by Col. Steven L. Bullimore, 17th FiB commander.

"I'm honored to receive this medal, but no one aspires to get a Purple Heart," Hebert said. "I have to thank Sergeant Z for what he did that day. That guy would have had a clear shot at me and things could have been much worse had Sergeant Z not re-acted so quickly."

"I want to thank all the team for their support and let you know that I'm not scarred by what happened that day," he said. "We were doing a job and it's just something that happened."

This was the first Purple Heart awarded to a 17th FiB Soldier during this deployment.

For more from 17th FiB, visit  
<http://www.lewis.army.mil/17FA/>



## W.Va. Legislature Censured

Story by staff  
MetroNews

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** -- The Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health has voted to censure the West Virginia Legislature for "continuing to allow smoking in the West Virginia State Capitol Building."

"Even though we've been told in no uncertain terms that the state capitol is not a part of our jurisdiction and we do not have any control over what happens at the state capitol, it is in Kanawha County," board president Brenda Isaac said.

Kanawha County has had a Clean Indoor Air Regulation since July 2008. It prohibits smoking in public buildings.

Isaac says the censure is the strongest message the board could send. "It distresses us that unhealthy practices are al-

lowed to continue in that one building in Kanawha County, which are not allowed to continue anywhere else and it makes people sick," she said.

The Kanawha-Charleston Health Dept. has received many complaints about smoking taking place in legislative offices. Isaac says she realizes many capitol workers got outside to smoke, but some lawmakers don't.

"We would like to see our legislators care enough about the health of the people that are in and out of our state capitol to enforce the same rules there," Isaac said.

The board of health took the censure vote at its Thursday night meeting and it was unanimous.

**Charleston is the hometown of Master Sgt. Thomas Miskevish, who appears in the lead story on p. 10**



Courtesy Photo

The West Virginia State Capitol, Charleston

## Cell phones used to educate

### Local Michigan school makes use of cell phone applications to help raise student scores

Story by staff  
FOX

**INKSTER, Mich.** -- Cell phones, currently banned in many schools, are becoming educational tools in others.

More than 100 students were suspended at a New Haven, Conn., high school in January for using cell phones, according to MSNBC.com.

While such is the practice at a majority of schools, some educators promote cell phones as the key to 21st-century learning.

BBC News reported on a study in the U.K. that showed children who abbreviate their language in texts are improving their ability to spell. A study of 8- to 12-year-olds found that "text speak" requires the same knowledge of phonics needed to learn correct spellings of words.

GoKnow Learning Inc., a company co-founded by University of Michigan Engineering Professor Elliot Soloway, produces cell phone software to help students manage their schoolwork.

Soloway said in an interview with the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that the best way to make children smarter is to tap into the technology that most of them use each day. While laptops may present "logistical and financial constraints," he said cell phones are "cheap and plentiful."

Michigan's Inkster Public School District partnered with GoKnow and Sprint on a summer school session that utilized software-loaded Sprint handsets. Data showed that students involved in a trial increased their achievement scores in English language arts and math by an average of 25 percent, according to an article on the Tech & Learning blog.

Research has suggested that the cell phone bans aren't working. A study by CommonSense Mass Media stated that nearly two-thirds of students with cell phones use them at school regardless of school policies against it.

The survey focused on a down side of cell phone use in schools, the use of digital media to cheat in school, and reported that more than 35 percent of teens admitted they've used their cell phones to cheat.

**Inkster, Mich. is the home of the Army Reserve's 300th Military Police Brigade, who are featured in this week's front-page story**

# AROUND THE COB

Danger Forward

Feb. 8, Issue 2

## Dining Hours

### DFAC 2

0530 - 0830  
1130 - 1400  
1700 - 2000

### DFAC 3

0530 - 0830  
1130 - 1400  
1700 - 2000  
0000 - 0130

## Hair Cuts

### Barber Shop

0900 - 2000

### Beauty Shop

0900 - 2000

## USO

### Every day

Closes 0600  
Re-opens 1000

## Religious Services

### Protestant

(COB Basra Chapel)  
**Contemporary Worship**  
1000

### General Protestant

1130  
**Gospel Worship**  
1400  
**Chapel Next Protestant**  
1830

### Roman Catholic

(COB Basra Chapel)  
**Sunday Mass**  
0830  
**Saturday Vigil Mass**  
2000

### Jewish

(COB Basra Chapel)  
**Saturday**  
1800

## LDS

(COB Basra Chapel)

### Sunday

1700 - 1800

## Chaplain Programs

### Bible Studies

- Book of Colossians  
(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)

### Wednesday

2000  
- Regular  
(Panther Den / MWR)

### Wednesday

1930

### Women's Fellowship

(Holy Joe's Coffeehouse)

### Sunday

1030

### Every Man's Battle

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)

### Thursday

1800 - 1900

### Holy Joe's Coffee

(Holy Joe's Coffeehouse)

### Monday - Saturday

0600 - 0900

### Saturday night

1900 - 2200

### The Truth Project

(Gunslinger Conf Rm)

### Tuesday

1900 - 2030

### AA

(COB Basra Chapel)

### Thursday

2000

# Sudoku

3	5	1		7				9
	9	7	4	8				
		8		5	1		3	
	1		7	2			4	3
9							5	8
	7	3			4		2	
4			2					
					7			4
		5	3		9		6	1

## A look around USD-S



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher M. DeHart, TF 12  
One of the crew on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pulls security high over the Iraqi landscape during a flight to Forward Operating Base Delta from Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, Jan. 8, 2010. The aircraft was carrying passengers to a Transfer of Authority ceremony between 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, Task Force Vandal, and 2-285th AHB, Task Force Redhawk, at FOB Delta.

Have a photo from around USD-S? Email it, along with the photographer's name, rank and unit, the date and place it was taken, and a short description, to [benjamin.kibbey@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:benjamin.kibbey@iraq.centcom.mil), and you could have it featured here and receive a coin from DCSM Jim Champagne.